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DEFENCE MINISTRY APPROVES PURCHASES FOR ₹2.23 LAKH CRORE

The Defence Acquisition Council on Thursday approved purchase of equipment worth ₹2.23 lakh crore to enhance combat capabilities of the forces

97 TEJAS, 156 HELICOPTERS TO BE ACQUIRED

The meeting chaired by defence minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday approved the purchase of 97 Tejas light combat aircraft, 156 Prachand combat helicopters, medium range anti-ship missiles for the Navy and upgrading 84 Su-30 fighter jets for the Air Force. With the additional fleet, the number of indigenously-developed Tejas procured would go up to 180

INDIA WANTS TO BOOST LOCAL PRODUCTION

■ The helicopter possesses modern stealth characteristics, robust armour protection and formidable night attack capability, it is fully capable of operating in Siachen as well | P9
■ The defence ministry said 98% of the total procurement will be sourced from domestic industries to boost atmanirbharta

175

WARSHIPS INDIA PLANS TO HAVE BY 2035

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VAYANAD • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDRABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOTTHAKOTA • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • DELHAI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVANGI • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TRIVENDR • SANGALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADIPALLIKUDU • NAGAPATTINAM • THIRUSSUR • KALABURGI

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸಂಸದ, ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

WORLD AIDS DAY - 2023
25 ನೇ ವರ್ಷದ
'ನಮುದಾಯಗಳು ಮುನ್ನಡೆಸಲಿ' ರಚಿತ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ 'Let communities lead'
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.12.2023, ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ವೆಟ್ ಹಾಲ್, ವಿದ್ಯಾನ ಸೌಧ. Date: 01.12.2023, Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha
ನಿಮ್ಮ ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವ್ ಸ್ಥಿತಿ ತಿಳಿಯಲು ಕೂಡಲೇ ಹತ್ತಿರದ ವಿಸಿಟಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಉಚಿತ ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವ್ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಿ
Know your HIV Status, get HIV Test for free at your nearest ICTC.
ಹೆಚ್‌ಐವ್ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಉಚಿತ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ 1097 ಕ್ಕೆ ಕರೆ ಮಾಡಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಸಂಸದ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

'Told you', says Trudeau after US indicts Indian

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

A day after the indictment of an Indian national in an alleged assassination attempt on Sikh extremist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in the US, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau said his allegations about India's role in the killing of Khalistani terrorist in Canada should be taken seriously. "The news coming out of the US underscores what we have been talking about from the very beginning," Trudeau said in Ottawa on Thursday.

Trudeau's remarks came after the US Justice Department indicted one Nikhil Gupta for allegedly paying a US under-cover agent posing as a hitman to kill Pannun, who has US citizenship. It alleged that Gupta, who is said to be involved in international narcotics and weapons trafficking, was acting on the instruction of an unnamed Indian government official. Following the US action, India constituted a probe team.

Pannun is a wanted criminal with 22 cases against him in Punjab alone, while India had designated Nijjar as a terrorist in 2020. Meanwhile, Canada's foreign minister Melanie Joly demanded that New Delhi take back the 41 Canadian diplomats who were removed from India. On its part, the Ministry of External Affairs said Canada is hosting anti-India extremists.



DOWNPOUR DANGER
Passersby help a woman to her feet after she fell off her scooter on a flooded road in T Nagar, Chennai, on Thursday. Overnight rain inundated several areas in the Tamil Nadu capital | P RAVIKUMAR | P5

No response from Centre, will give farmers ₹2k: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH no fund coming from the Centre, the State Government has decided to provide Rs 2,000 each to farmers affected by drought in various districts. Disclosing this to reporters here on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said this will be the first instalment of drought relief to farmers. "There is no sign of the Centre releasing funds and we can't wait anymore," he said. Despite writing several letters and ministers from the State meeting some Union ministers, no step has been taken to release funds to tackle drought. "We haven't received any positive response from the Union Government so far," Siddaramaiah said. He said the State had sought 150 mandays under MNREGA, but the Union Government has not given permission to it. The State has declared 223 taluks as drought-hit. Crops grown on 48.19 lakh hectares of land have been destroyed due to drought. The State had sought Rs 18,000 crore as drought relief from the Union Government, the chief minister said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

BJP could retain MP, has edge in Rajasthan, predict exit polls

ADVANTAGE CONG IN TELANGANA, C'GARH

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

EXIT polls on Thursday threw up a mixed bag with some projecting an edge to the Congress in Chhattisgarh while giving the BJP the advantage in Madhya Pradesh. But there was unanimity on the Congress wrestling Telangana. While the pollsters predicted a close BJP-Congress fight in Rajasthan, Mizoram is likely to see a hung House with the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) locked in a close race with the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF).

Elections to the five states took place between November 7-November 30 and the counting of votes would take place on December 3. The results are crucial for the BJP and the Congress as they will set the tone for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Most exit polls gave the Congress a clear edge in Chhattisgarh, indicating that the ruling Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress is poised to retain power. However, the BJP, according to pollsters, put up a good fight unlike in the 2018 polls. The poll of polls gave the Congress 49 and the BJP 38 in the 90-member House.

Telangana saw a three-way fight, but most pollsters gave a clear edge to the Congress to form the next government. While India TV-CNX predicted 63-79 seats for the Congress, 31-47 for the BRS, 2-4 for the BJP and 5-7 for the AIMIM, Jan Ki Baat forecast that the Congress would get 48-64 seats. The poll of polls gave the Congress 62 and the BRS 44 in the 119-member Telangana assembly.

While the Congress was expecting a comeback in Madhya Pradesh, most pollsters were unanimous in giving a clear edge to the incumbent Shivraj Singh Chouhan-led BJP government in the state. The poll of polls gave the BJP 123 seats and the Congress 102 in the 230-member assembly.

Rajasthan will also see a close fight between the ruling Congress and the BJP, according to the exit polls. While the state has a three-decade tradition of not repeating an incumbent government, at least two pollsters showed that the Congress was nosing ahead to retain power.

According to India Today-Axis My India poll, the Congress is slated to get 86-106 seats with 42% votes and BJP 80-100 seats with 41% votes. Others are projected to get 9-18 seats, indicating that small parties could play a significant role in the formation of the next government. The poll of polls gave the BJP 104 and the Congress 95 in the 199-member House.

In Mizoram, India TV-CNX said the MNF would get 14-18 seats, ZPM 12-16, Congress 8-10 and BJP 0-2. The poll of polls gave the MNF 16 and the ZPM 15 in the 40-member assembly.

RAJASTHAN (SEATS 199, MAJORITY 100)

SOURCE	BJP	CONG	BSP	OTH
ABP News-C Voter	94-114	71-91	0	9-19
Dainik Bhaskar	98-105	85-95	0	10-15
India Today-Axis My India	80-100	86-106	1-2	8-16
India TV-CNX	80-90	94-104	0	14-18
Jan Ki Baat	100-122	62-85	0	14-15
News 24-Today's Chanakya	77-101	89-113	0	2-16
P-MARQ	105-125	69-91	0	5-15
Republic TV-Matrise	115-130	65-75	0	12-19
Times Now-ETG	108-128	56-72	0	13-21
TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat	100-110	90-100	0	05-15
Poll of polls	104	95	1	13

MADHYA PRADESH (SEATS 230, MAJORITY 116)

SOURCE	BJP	CONG	BSP	OTH
ABP News-C Voter	88-112	113-137	0	2-8
Dainik Bhaskar	95-115	105-120	0	0-15
India Today-Axis My India	140-162	68-90	0-2	0-1
India TV-CNX	140-159	70-89	0	0-2
Jan Ki Baat	100-123	102-125	0	5
News 24-Today's Chanakya	139-163	62-86	0	1-9
Republic TV-Matrise	118-130	97-107	0	0-2
Times Now-ETG	118-117	109-125	0	1-5
TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat	106-116	111-121	0	0-6
Poll of polls	123	102	1	3

CHHATTISGARH (SEATS 90, MAJORITY 46)

SOURCE	BJP	CONG	BSP	OTH
ABP News-C Voter	36-48	41-53	0	0-4
Dainik Bhaskar	35-45	46-55	0	0-10
India Today-Axis My India	36-46	40-50	0	1-5
India TV-CNX	30-40	46-56	0	3-5
Jan Ki Baat	34-45	42-53	0	3
News 24-Today's Chanakya	25-41	49-65	0	0-3
Republic TV-Matrise	34-42	44-52	0	00-02
Times Now-ETG	32-40	48-56	0	2-4
TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat	35-45	40-50	0	0-3
Poll of polls	38	49	0	3

TELANGANA (SEATS 119, MAJORITY 60)

SOURCE	BRS	CONG	BJP	AIMIM
ABP News-C Voter	38-54	49-65	5-13	5-9
India TV-CNX	31-47	63-79	2-4	5-7
Jan Ki Baat	40-55	48-64	7-13	4-7
News 24-Today's Chanakya	24-42	62-80	2-12	0
Republic TV-Matrise	46-56	58-68	4-9	5-7
Times Now-ETG	37-45	60-70	6-8	5-7
TV 9 Bharatvarsh-Polstrat	48-58	49-59	5-10	6-8
Poll of polls	44	62	7	6

MIZORAM (SEATS 40, MAJORITY 21)

SOURCE	MNF	ZPM	CONG	BJP
ABP News-C Voter	15-21	12-18	2-8	0
India TV-CNX	14-18	12-16	8-10	0-2
Jan Ki Baat	10-14	15-25	5-9	0-2
Times Now-ETG	14-18	10-14	9-13	0-2
Poll of polls	16	15	8	1

GDP growth tops forecasts, expands 7.6% in 2nd quarter

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

INDIA'S economic performance in the second quarter of 2023-24 beat expectations by registering a 7.6% growth on account of robust expansion of the manufacturing sector and higher government spending ahead of elections.

The growth compares to 6.2% per cent in the second quarter last year and 7.8% in the first quarter of FY24. The second quarter numbers came in as a surprise as most analysts were expecting it to be below 7%.

Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said the economy would achieve a 6.5% growth as forecast by the Reserve Bank of India in the current fiscal year. He emphasised that India is underestimating its GDP growth potential, citing the robust tax buoyancy and nominal GDP growth rate as supporting evidence for a higher growth trajectory.

"We will keep the GDP growth estimate at 6.5% but we are more comfortable than before. We need to calculate the impact of second-quarter numbers on full financial year. The momentum of economic growth will continue in the third quarter as well," he said.

The strong expansion was led by the manufacturing sector (13.9% growth in Q2 compared to 4.7% in the previous quarter), the construction sector (13.3% compared to 7.9%), and electricity and other public utilities (10.1% vs 2.9%). The mining industry grew at 10% in the second quarter, up from 5.8% in the previous quarter.

On the other hand, agriculture witnessed a growth of 1.2%, a slight decline from the 3.5% growth reported in Q1.

Analysts warn that the GDP growth may slow down in the second half of the fiscal.

EXPRESS READ

India, China agree to hold talks at the earliest

New Delhi: India and China on Thursday held diplomatic talks on proposals to resolve remaining issues and achieve complete disengagement in eastern Ladakh, but there were no sign of any major breakthrough. The MEA said both sides decided to hold the next round of senior commanders' meeting at the earliest to achieve the "objective".

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Kissinger, the man who mercilessly saw tomorrow



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HELLO, my name is Henry. I met Henry Kissinger a half-dozen times over nearly as many decades and he introduced himself in the same way each time. Kissinger took India seriously, regularly visited the country and met Indian delegations who visited the US. Yes, this was partly because of his consultancy Kissinger Associates. The real source of his India interest, however, was that this was a large country and, in his world vision, large countries mattered.

Kissinger believed that global stability was derived from thrashing out agreements between great powers that satisfied their most naked interests and reconciled their power differentials. Amorphous concepts like equity or morality were impossible to reconcile among nations and were best banished from the tables of diplomacy. He wasn't wrong. But it is hard for a megaphone-armed activist to understand how much the social stability that allows him to burn effigies

was dependent on a Kissinger clones working to maintain the balance of power. In practice, this meant Kissinger sacrificed East Bengal to the path to US-China rapprochement, bombed Cambodia into the age of Pol Pot, wine and dined more dictators and tinpot types than most people can name. His argued that doing the dirty ultimately secured a larger world order and global peace. An admirer of Kautliya, he wrote of him and the Arthashastra. "He describes a collection of states...in permanent conflict with each other...his is an analysis of the world as he found it; it offers a practical, not a normative, guide to action." Which echoes what Kissinger believed he did most of his life.

During his twilight years, Kissinger poured his energies into preventing a US-China conflict. As he said to a small group of us, "The US believing China is determined to drive it from the Western Pacific or China believing the US is determined to contain it. If either one of these propositions becomes policy, conflict is inevitable." Yet, he was a former US na-

tional security advisor and secretary of state, and preserving the interests of his homeland was front and centre. Which is one reason he became a strenuous supporter of the burgeoning Indo-US strategic relationship. "India will be the fulcrum of 21st century order: an indispensable element," he wrote. In private, he was fulsome about the importance of India and the US and helping preserve the balance of power against China. One was always struck how Kissinger was upheld by diplomats, politicians and businessmen from nearly every country as a genuine statesman, a person who could connect the dots and make them into bridges.

A Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, he understood the link between domestic politics and international relations. In 2015, Kissinger was invited to speak to the National Security Advisory Board. Asked what he saw as the fundamental question regarding India's future, he said, "Like all countries that undergo urbanisation, India's rural value structure is being eroded. The nature of the new value system that your country constructs is the most critical question for your future."



MBBS grad dies of 'snake bite' hrs after convocation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Tumakuru

NEGLECTING a suspected snake bite proved fatal for an MBBS graduate here on Wednesday night. He died before he could get treatment.

The deceased, Adith Balakrishnan, hailed from

Thrissur in Kerala. He received his MBBS degree certificate earlier in the day from Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor at the 12th convocation ceremony of Sri Siddhartha Academy of Higher Education (SSAHE).

Adith, his mother Latha Balakrishnan and their relative returned to his rented accommodation at Heggere village after the ceremony. While parking his car at night, a snake is said have bitten him. He, however, did not realise it. After reaching his third floor accommodation, Adith went to the toilet and latched the door from inside. When he did not come out of the

toilet even after an hour, his mother alerted his neighbours. When they broke open the toilet door, Adith was found lying on the floor with a head injury. Though he was rushed to hospital immediately, he was declared brought dead. The body has been shifted to the mortuary after postmortem.